

## Actions from GISERA NT Regional Research Advisory Committee Meeting 1 March 2021

Key

Action Open
Action Due/overdue
Action complete/in train

	Item	Action	Owner	Due	Status
1.	11-06-20 Item 2C	<u>Action 15</u> : GISERA Executive Officer to schedule a meeting with relevant stakeholders to determine level of engagement with TO's and source of funding for their involvement through the Cultural Monitor program.	GISERA Executive Officer	20 July 2020	Action closed. Broader discussions to be taken offline with CSIRO, petroleum companies and NLC.
2.	01-03-21 Item 3	<u>Action 1</u> : Research proponent to adjust finish date for task 1 to March 2022 on page 14 of Project Order.	Research proponent	5 March 2021	
3.	01-03-21 Item 3	<u>Action 2</u> : The research proponent to include in the Project Order the provision of real-time online data throughout duration of the project.	Research proponent	5 March 2021	
4.	01-03-21 Item 4	<u>Action 3</u> : The research proponent to consider bringing task 2 of the project forward.	Research proponent	5 March 2021	
5.	01-03-21 Item 4	<u>Action 4</u> : The research proponent to check feasibility of conducting field activities to coincide with those undertaken for the SREBA.	Research proponent	5 March 2021	

**Minutes**  
**GISERA NT Regional Research Advisory Committee Meeting No. 5**  
**Monday, 1 March 2021**  
**Via Webex**

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**OPENING**

The meeting of the GISERA Northern Territory Regional Research Advisory Committee (RRAC) was called to order at 11.10 am (ACST) on Monday, 1 March 2021.

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Damian Barrett: GISERA Director (*CSIRO*)  
Greg Owens: Industry Development Manager (*Northern Territory Farmers Association*)  
Greg McDonald: Manager, Minerals & Energy (*Northern Land Council*)  
Julie-Ann Stoll: Independent Representative retired, formerly Central Land Council  
Jenny Davis: Co-Director, Research Institute for Environment and Livelihoods (*CDU*)  
James Pratt: Senior Executive Director- Energy Development (*Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, NT Government*)  
Paul Wybrew: Manager Environment, Technical, Monitoring and Approvals (*Santos*)  
Matt Kernke: Environmental Approvals Lead-Growth Assets (*Origin*) – for Stephanie Stonier  
Chris Chilcott: Research Leader Northern Australian (*CSIRO*)  
Cathy Robinson: Research Group Leader, Land & Water (*CSIRO*)

*Other participants:*

Jizelle Khoury: GISERA Executive Officer (*CSIRO*)  
Kaydy Pinetown: Team Leader, Energy Resources (*CSIRO*)

*Apologies:*

David Dewhurst: Geoscience Research Leader (*CSIRO*)  
Romy Carey: Acting Chief Executive Officer (*Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association*)  
Stephanie Stonier: Corporate Affairs Manager (Northern Australia) (*Origin*)  
Greg Ireland: Chief Executive Officer (*Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory*)

## **1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed. The GISERA Director welcomed all members to the meeting. Apologies were received from David Dewhurst, Romy Carey, Stephanie Stonier and Greg Ireland.

It was noted that Kaydy Pinetown attended as an observer.

## **2. ACTION FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The NT RRAC noted progress against actions.

The NT RRAC agreed to close action 15 (11-06-20 Item 2C) and take this item offline to enable broader discussions with the petroleum companies, CSIRO and NLC around the engagement with traditional owners and interaction with cultural monitor program.

## **3. PROJECT PROPOSAL**

### **Methane emissions quantification of well drilling to completion processes in Beetaloo sub-basin**

The GISERA Director provided a summary of the project proposal.

Key points raised:

- The objective of this project is to: i) quantify the fugitive methane emissions from well construction and completion activities; ii) compare actual measured results with estimated results to verify the adequacy of existing calculated emission estimates; and iii) to determine how to deploy a network of the monitoring stations in order to be able to accurately estimate the emissions across the region. In addition, this project responds to NT Government's 'Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing' final report Recommendation 9.4 - That baseline and ongoing monitoring be the responsibility of the regulator and funded by the gas industry and Recommendation 9.5 - That all monitoring results must be made publicly available online on a continuous basis in real time.
- It was noted that the task 1 finish date on page 14 of the Project Order should be revised to March 2022.
- It would be useful to have real-time data available throughout the project rather than waiting until the end of the project for public release. Research proponent should include this requirement in the Project Order.
- It was noted that there may be a need for additional instruments to be deployed and for ongoing monitoring in the region beyond the life of this project. Any additional work will be considered by the NT RRAC under a separate proposal.

Outcome: The RRAC approved this project, subject to the actions below being addressed to the satisfaction of the GISERA Director.

Action 1: The research proponent to adjust finish date for task 1 to March 2022 on page 14 of Project Order.

Action 2: The research proponent to include in the Project Order the provision of real-time online data throughout duration of the project.

Jenny Davis left the meeting at 12.00 noon (ACST).

#### 4. PROJECT VARIATION

##### **Understanding and managing impacts to biodiversity from roads and pipelines in the Beetaloo**

Key points raised:

- This project was approved in June 2020 and was due to commence in January 2021.
- Due to effects of COVID and restrictions on travel, SREBA's 2021 field campaign and an extended 2021 wet season, the research proponent is seeking approval to push back commencement to July 2021.
- The research proponent is seeking approval to move the following milestone dates:

Milestone	Milestone description	Revised Start	Revised Finish	Comment
Task 1	Identify sampling sites	1 Jul 2021	30 Sep 2021	Will remain the first task
Task 2	Map connectivity in the study area	1 Sep 2021	17 Dec 2021	Previously task 5. Now task 2
Task 3	Investigate patch mosaics and edge effects	1 Apr 2022	30 Sep 2022	Previously task 2. Now task 3
Task 4	Investigate movement ecology, road mortality and dust effects	1 Apr 2022	30 Sep 2022	Previously task 3. Now task 4
Task 5	Analysis of field data	1 Oct 2022	16 Dec 2022	Previously task 4. Now task 5
Task 6	Develop mitigation measures	1 Nov 2022	16 Dec 2022	Will remain as task 6.
Task 7	Communication activities	1 Jul 2021	16 Dec 2022	Will remain the final task

- It was noted that:
  - No additional funds for this project are being sought.
  - The project scope will remain unchanged.
  - The project commencement date and delivery date will be pushed back by 6 months.
  - The order of milestones will change.
- The timing of task 2 is during the hottest period and beginning of the wet season. Mustering activities would also be conducted at that time. If this is a field-based activity, the research proponent should consider bringing this task forward.
- If the proponent hasn't already done so, it would be worthwhile to check if it is feasible to conduct field activities to coincide with those undertaken for the SREBA.

Outcome: The RRAC approved the project variation which will result in a revised schedule as set out in table above. The research proponent would consider the last two points raised which may result in further adjustments to the dates.

Action 3: The research proponent to consider bringing task 2 of the project forward.

Action 4: The research proponent to check feasibility of conducting field activities to coincide with those undertaken for the SREBA.

## 5. NEXT PHASE OF GISERA

The GISERA Director updated the NT RRAC on developments for GISERA. Key points raised:

- The previous funding agreements established with the NT and Commonwealth Governments expired on 30 June 2020.
- All remaining funds have been distributed into NT projects.
- The Alliance Agreement established with industry is due to expire on 30 June 2021.
- In the October 2020 budget, additional funding to GISERA was announced. \$13.7M was made available to CSIRO for the purpose of extending activities over another 4 years.
- This agreement was executed in January 2021 and will go through to 30 June 2024. This provides a significant boost in terms of projects GISERA can undertake in the NT.
- Over the next few months CSIRO will be developing priority areas around the issues that are of community concern where GISERA will invest funds in the NT. CSIRO will be looking to scope proposals during this time.
- CSIRO is currently in discussion with state/territory governments and industry around their contributions to GISERA.
- Under the new Alliance Agreement, we are introducing a tiered membership for industry. This agreement will also run for 4 years.
- The NT Government is looking to renew its association with CSIRO's GISERA with additional funding to be provided.

- The current NT RRAC would come to an end under the present Alliance Agreement. The committee will be reconstituted and continue over the next 4 years. The community/independent composition (as a majority) will remain at the core of the GISERA governance structure. A state/territory representative also remains unchanged. The committee will no longer include CSIRO membership, but internal input will be sought during development of proposals. CSIRO will also bring in a state/territory leader to assist throughout the process including identification of concerns and priorities, development of proposals, RRAC discussions.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Stygofauna project final report**

Key points raised:

- It was noted that traditional owners and landowners had inadvertently been omitted from acknowledgements in the final report. The final report would be adjusted to rectify this oversight.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the NT Regional Research Advisory Committee is yet to be scheduled. It is anticipated that a meeting will occur once further proposals are established.

Damian Barrett adjourned the meeting at 12.25 pm (ACST).

Minutes submitted by: **Jizelle Khoury**

Minutes approved by: **Damian Barrett**